Today's News - Monday, June 25, 2012

- · ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of what will be a stunning arts center for Bordeaux by BIG and bunches of others.
- We lose Kallmann, who "designed stately buildings like Boston City Hall" (and ever its defender).
- Florida offers a preview or "The Creative Class, Revisited" 10 years later: "A new social compact can turn our Creative Economy into a just and Creative Society too, in which prosperity is widely shared. But this won't happen on its own."
- Kotkin and Doig weigh in on the good news for Middle America, once considered "the ultimate in fly-over country," and its "surprising success story" thanks in part to "boomerangers" returning home "not only with new degrees and skills, but a new appreciation for urban life."
- Dunlap visits Maki's 4WTC, the "tower you may not see, assuming you've even heard of it a building deliberately designed to be understated and deferential...'We like the idea of the building dematerializing'" (great pix).
- Kamin gives a mixed review to Chicago's new Museum of Broadcast Communications: "At best, what we're seeing is a work in progress...At worst, it is the latest example of the overblown development of the boom years, a vanity project that's too big for its own good."
- Rosenbaum goes back to the Barnes and finds it "a pleasant, relaxed visit. The majority of visitors, for whom the Philly facility will be their first encounter with the Barnes Collection, will never know what they're missing" (though she is concerned about security measures).
- Brussat is bristling over Foster's plans for the New York Public Library: "If the two lions guarding the entrance were not marble, they would be roaring at a plan to save the library by destroying it."
- Long picks his faves in the upcoming London Festival of Architecture: "LFA may be all about fantasy but it serves up food for thought. There's no politics here, no protest, just jolly, worthy architectural thinking."
- Rose reviews the week, including his LFA picks, "it's Dame on for Zaha," RIBA Awards are "streamlined and the bar set higher," and a "farewell to Gunther Domenig."
- · Winners all: RIBA "re-evaluates entry system to eliminate 'soft' awards."
- · An impressive list of winners in inaugural RIAS Awards (some crossover to RIBA wins, too).
- South Korea Culture Ministry announces winners of 2012 Young Architect Awards.
- · Kordalski's "sleek, elegant artistry" garners the Mid-Career Award in design from the 2012 Cleveland Arts Prize.
- Two we couldn't resist: Prefab is the secret behind plans to build a tower taller than the Burj Khalifa in 90 days (architect is "from Dubai") + An eyeful of "The Most Beautiful Outdoor Theaters in the World."

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BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group + FREAKS freearchitects: The MÉCA, Bordeaux, France

Obituary: Gerhard Kallmann, 97: designed stately buildings like Boston City Hall and was a co-founder of the firm Kallmann, McKinnell & Knowles...now Kallmann, McKinnell & Wood.- New York Times

The Rise of the Creative Class, Revisited: A new economic and social order is a double-edged sword: it unleashes incredible energies, but it also causes tremendous hardships...the dawning of the Creative Age has ushered in a newfound respect for livability and sustainability...A new social compact—a Creative Compact—can turn our Creative Economy into a just and Creative Society too, in which prosperity is widely shared. But this won't happen on its own. By Richard Florida-The Atlantic Cities

Thunder On The Great Plains: Once Written-Off Region Enjoying Remarkable Revival: ...may well be the most surprising success story of 21st century America....the Plains states have outperformed the national average for the past decade by virtually every key measure of vitality — from population, income and GDP growth to unemployment — and show no sign of slowing down. By Joel Kotkin-Forbes

Moving home: The new key to success: The economy has young people boomeranging back to flyover-country cities to live cheap and chase their dreams...smaller cities...shouldn't panic about its kids making a beeline for the coasts...What looks like brain drain could ultimately be brain gain...Boomerangs return home not only with new degrees and skills, but a new appreciation for urban life. By Will Doig-Salon

A 977-Foot Tower You May Not See, Assuming You've Even Heard of It: The structural framework for 4 World Trade Center is scheduled to be completed on Monday, a big step for a building deliberately designed to be understated and deferential..."We like the idea of the building dematerializing"... By David W. Dunlap -- Osamu Sassa/Fumihiko Maki/Maki and Associates [images]- New York Times

Mixed signals: New Museum of Broadcast Communications deftly rehabs a parking garage, but its exhibit spaces disappoint: At best, what we're seeing is a work in progress...to create a shrine to the history of radio and television. At worst, the museum is the latest example of the overblown development of the boom years, a vanity project that's too big for its own good. By Blair Kamin -- Eckenhoff Saunders Architects [images]- Chicago Tribune

Back to the Barnes: Some Improvements, but Some Security Concerns (with videos): Memo to the Barnes: You're not in Merion any more...Overall, though, it was a pleasant, relaxed visit. The majority of visitors, for whom the Philly facility will be their first encounter with the Barnes Collection, will never know what they're missing. By Lee Rosenbaum-ArtsJournal

Save the New York Public Library: If the two lions guarding the entrance...were not marble, they would be roaring at a plan to save the library by destroying it...calls to mind changes instituted by the Providence Public Library in 2004...both projects raise big questions...Literary lions, protect your pride! By David Brussat -- Carrère & Hastings (1911); Norman Foster/Foster + Partners [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Dream city: London Festival of Architecture: From pop-ups at the new Pleasure Gardens to visions for King's Cross, LFA may be all about fantasy but it serves up food for thought...The theme is The Playful City...There's no politics here, no protest, just jolly, worthy architectural thinking. By Kieran Long -- EXYZT; Nicholas Kirk Architects- Evening Standard (UK)

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Ahead of the Olympics, the London Festival of Architecture transforms East End dockland into a giant pleasure garden; and it's Dame on for Zaha Hadid...RIBA's annual awards...streamlined and the bar set higher...And farewell to Gunther Domenig...carried the torch for a more theatrical architectural mode... By Steve Rose -- Dixon Jones; Andrew Burns; Sarah Eberle; Jimenez Lai/Bureau Spectacular; Stanton Williams; David Chipperfield [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

RIBA award winners halved: Institute re-evaluates entry system to eliminate 'soft' awards as Stirling Prize longlist is cut from 111 to 59..."We felt it was important to maintain a standard." -- Stanton Williams; David Chipperfield; Dixon Jones; Xsite Architecture; Jonathan Hendry; OMA; Kisho Kurokawa; Populous; Glenn Howell; Robin Lee Architecture; Rogers Stirk Harbour; etc. [images]-BD/Building Design (UK)

RIAS Announces 18 Winners in Inaugural Awards: ...representing the very best of current Scottish architecture... -- Rural Design; Cameron Webster Architects; G1 Group; Reiach and Hall Architects; Hypostyle Architects; Richard Gibson Architects; Holmes Miller; LDN Architects; Dualchas Building Design; Malcolm Fraser Architects; Icosis Architects; OMA; Gokay Deveci Chartered Architect; Gareth Hoskins Architects; McGregor Bowes/Haworth Tompkins; PagePark Architects; Zone Architects [images]- Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland / RIAS

Culture Ministry announces winners of 2012 Young Architect Awards: ...recognizes the achievements of up-and-coming architects for excellence in design, capacity to balance architecture and nature and to sustain local ecosystems and cultures. -- Kwon Hyung-pyo/Kim Soon-ju/Bau Architects; Lee Dong-joon/Stocker Lee Architetti/ Lee So-jin/Atelier Lion Seoul- Korea Herald

Cleveland Arts Prize: Steve Kordalski / architecture: His sleek, elegant artistry has garnered numerous accolades, and now comes another: the Mid-Career Award in design... -- Kordalski Architects- Cleveland Plain Dealer

World's tallest building to be built in only 90 days: If the target is met, the 838-meter (2,750-ft) "Sky City One" will take only a 20th of the time that the Burj Khalifa...and will stand 10 meters (33 feet) taller still upon completion. The secret to the rapid construction is prefabrication...200-story, earthquake resistant car-free city for 100,000 people... [images, links]-Gizmag (Australia)

The Most Beautiful Outdoor Theaters in the World: ...some of the most amazing open-air play spaces... -- the next ENTERprise - architects; Oscar Niemeyer; Hodgetts+Fung; Kadarik Tüür Arhitektid; Allied Architects; OMA; Dewberry & Davis; Zhang Yimou; Glen Howard Small; Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images]- Flavorwire

Albert Barnes Offers Critical Response to Placement of New "Barnes": He agrees to talk with fellow Central High School of Philadelphia alum after 61 years of silence, but only on the condition that his remarks remain unedited. This transcript respects his requirement. By Norman Weinstein-ArchNewsNow

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